



BUCKS for DUCKS 2011

2012 Gaggle of Gatherings

Yolo Basin Foundation's *Gaggle of Gatherings* is composed of workshops, trips and parties that are offered at specific dates and times during the year. Some have been brought back by popular demand, and others are new for 2012. The *Gaggle of Gatherings* were made available first to guests at *Bucks for Ducks* on November 18th, but there are still tickets left for every event. Read about them here, check your calendar, and then click on the "Purchase Tickets" link found on the *Gaggle of Gatherings* page to reserve your spot on a great adventure or several!

Birding with the Best

Spend a winter's day with expert birder Terry Colborn. His enthusiasm and knowledge are guaranteed to make the outing memorable for the beginner as well as the hard-core birder. Terry will take you to a number of local "birding hot spots" in search of wintering raptors and waterfowl. After a picnic lunch, the group will head south to see hundreds of Sandhill Cranes. This all-day event ends with a dramatic sunset experience as the cranes come in to roost.

Saturday, January 28, 2012 • 7am-5:30 pm • 20 guests • \$65

A Nature Photography Workshop with Lewis Kemper

World-renowned nature photographer Lewis Kemper offers you insight, inspiration, and photographic skills regardless of your experience behind the lens. On Saturday afternoon, you'll explore the essentials of composition and light in a classroom setting. As the sun sets you'll be at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area for a field session where you can practice what you've learned. After a light dinner at the Wildlife Area Headquarters, you'll have a chance to review your work and present your photographs for group critique and discussion. Give it your best shot!

Saturday, February 4, 2012 • 1pm-9pm • 20 guests • \$100

Ducks--Harbingers of Hope?

John Eadie, the Dennis E. Raveling Professor of Waterfowl Biology at UC Davis, says ducks are the true poster birds representing the state of wetlands today. This renowned conservation biologist will let us in on little known — and unsuspected — secrets of duck behavior. And, he'll assess how ducks and other waterfowl are surviving in California, which he considers the "emergency room for conservation science." Enjoy a chance to visit with this popular professor over a glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres at the lovely home of Susanne Rockwell and Brian Sway.

Saturday, February 11, 2012 • 7pm • 30 guests • \$65

Life on a Plate Boundary--A Geology Field Trip from Davis to Point Reyes and Samuel P. Taylor State Park with Eldridge and Judy Moores

We will observe traces of various strands to the San Andreas Fault system and evidence of plate tectonic activity along the western margin of North America for the past 160 million years. Our general route will take us SW on I-80, W on Route 37 and SW on Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Road to the Visitor Center at Pt. Reyes. We will have a picnic lunch at Samuel P. Taylor State Park before returning to Davis. Most stops, both coming and going, will be on roadsides. No hiking is involved, just some walking to gather the group together for roadside talks and along the Earthquake Trail at Pt. Reyes Visitor's Center.

Saturday, March 17, 2012 • 8am-5pm • 30 guests • \$65

Biking the Bypass—A Day at the Wildlife Area

Pedal your way along gravel roads and grass-covered paths with local water management experts Steve Macaulay and Dr. Stephen McCord for a leisurely bike ride in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. After a grand perspective from the levee of the expansive farmland and wetlands, ride into areas inaccessible by car and too far by foot. Hear about the remarkable water management activities that address multiple beneficial uses of the Bypass – flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality management, potable water supply, irrigation, grazing and more – throughout the water year. Your questions are encouraged! Energetic riders can continue on after lunch to see where Putah Creek enters the Bypass and connects to the Delta.

Saturday, April 7, 2012 • 8am-2pm • 20 guests • \$50

A Day at Northern California's Vernal Pools

Join vernal pool and wildflower expert Kate Mawdsley for a big day of touring the region's vernal pools. We'll start the day at the Tule Ranch in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area where we'll have coffee and pastries in the historic umbrella barn and marvel at the wildflowers. Then we'll move on to the Jepson Prairie Reserve where Kate will show us endangered vernal pool fauna as well as flowers. We'll enjoy a picnic lunch there and finally head up to Mather Field to finish the day of vernal pool viewing. Bring your cameras and wildflower books and prepare to be wowed by this unique spring sight!

Sunday, April 22, 2012 • 8am-4pm • 20 guests • \$50

Touring the Yolo Bypass from Weir to Weir

Have you ever wondered how the Yolo Bypass really works? This is your opportunity to spend a fascinating day with the experts, starting at the Fremont Weir and finishing at the Lisbon Weir. There will be multiple stops along the way including the new tidal marsh at the bottom of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. You'll learn all about the Bypass from multiple perspectives: flood protection, fish migration, rice farming, wintering waterfowl and water transport. Lunch will be provided.

Sunday, May 6, 2012 • 8am-4pm • 30 guests • \$65

Up Putah Creek with a Paddle!

Putah Creek Streamkeeper Rich Marovich will take a lucky few paddling for a day. He will share the recent history of lower Putah Creek and point out restoration sites. Along the way he'll be joined by special guests who will help tell the story of this amazing creek. You'll enjoy a creekside lunch en route. Rich plans to take guests on a different stretch of the creek this time, so some of you who've gone before may want to join us again!

Sunday, May 19, 2012 • 8am-3pm • 14 guests • \$80

Dams, Farms, Wine and Good Times along Putah Creek

Start the day at the Monticello Dam, where you'll see some good birds and learn about the history of the dam and the workings of the water delivery system along Putah Creek. Next you'll visit Lester Farms, a family nut and fruit business since the 1880's. Then move on down the creek to see the Madison family's flower and olive oil enterprises. Lunch will be served in the Kusch's spectacular gardens, and you'll enjoy bird watching there. Finally, the day will end in the Turkovich family's popular wine and cheese tasting room in downtown Winters. A day to remember!

Saturday, June 3, 2012 • 8am-3pm • 20 guests • \$65

Hawks of Summer

Travel with raptor expert Jim Estep to the nesting and foraging sites of the Swainson's Hawk, a CA threatened species which makes its summer home in Yolo County. On this all-day birding trip you'll have ample opportunity to identify other raptors as well. Just when you're getting a little tired and hungry the group will stop for lunch at a lovely country home in rural Yolo County where you'll share stories of the morning's adventure.

Saturday, June 16, 2012 • 7am-2pm • 20 guests • \$65

Batty for Bats

Be part of an intimate bat experience with Yolo Basin Foundation's own bat expert Corky Quirk. You'll learn about their natural history and biology and even get an up-close look at live bats. As the sun sets, your private party will enjoy fine wines and hors d'oeuvres in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area as you await the spectacular fly-out of hundreds of thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats.

Friday, August 17, 2012 • 6-9pm • 30 guests • \$50